

PREVENTION

IDAHO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND NEWSLETTER

What If Every Child Grew Up in a Safe and Healthy Family...

...protected not only by their parents, but by the entire community? It is possible... with your help.

There are many calamities that we are not able to prevent; tsunamis, hurricanes, floods and tornados, to name a few. These disasters wreak havoc in communities, leaving victims in their wake, and survivors struggling to come to terms with how different their lives will be...forever. Child abuse is the same in every respect except one – child abuse can be prevented.

Recent research conducted by Prevent Child Abuse America (www.preventchildabuse.org) in conjunction with the FrameWorks Institute (www.frameworksinstitute.org) shows that the American public has a high awareness of the issue of child abuse and neglect, as well as an understanding of the root causes and potential long-term effects of child abuse.

Unfortunately, perhaps because the American public tends to only think of child abuse and neglect as intentional and extreme, people feel powerless to do anything about it, either individually or systemically. When asked “what do you think you could do to prevent child abuse and neglect?” the most common answer was “to report it.” According to the study, the general public is reluctant to report child abuse because of the perception that the system does not respond effectively.

Learning about child abuse and reporting it are important, but that does not prevent children from suffering abuse in the first place. Since we know that 84% of children who are abused are abused by their parents, we also know that the best way to prevent child abuse is to educate, inform, support and work with parents to help them build strong, healthy families.

Here's what YOU can do:

Help a struggling parent

Parenting is not easy, and we all need help occasionally. Offer to care for the kids for awhile. Offer a listening ear, without judgment. Ask if there's anything *specific* you can do to help, or suggest resources in the community that can help the family, such as health professionals, teachers, or faith community leaders.

Get to know your neighbors

Develop friendly relationships with your neighbors and their children and grandchildren. Make your neighborhood your extended family. People feel better and safer, and problems seem less overwhelming, when support is nearby.

Reach out to children in your community

A smile or a word of encouragement can mean a lot, whether it comes from a parent or a passing stranger.

Get involved in your local school

Join the parent-teacher organization and attend school events. Even if you don't have school-aged children, you can mentor a child at your local school or become a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Volunteer

Answer hotlines, provide respite care, help staff a child care drop-in center, build a neighborhood support network for parents, mentor a family through your faith organization, become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), or volunteer with the Victim Assistance Program in your local prosecutor's office.

Keep your neighborhood safe

Start a neighborhood Watch and plan a local “National Night Out” community event that brings together neighbors, local businesses, firefighters, police and others. You can get to know each other by holding special events, and

help keep your community and children safe. (www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno)

Make a Contribution

Cash is most needed, but if you can't give money, donate clothing, toys or food to a local agency that helps families in your community.

Prevent Child Abuse America. (2004). Reframing Child Abuse and Neglect for Increased Understanding and Engagement: Defining the Need for Strategic Reframing.

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. (2005). Safe Children and Healthy Families are a Shared Responsibility: 2005 Community Resource Packet.

Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Know the warning signs of abuse and report it to your local law enforcement agency, or dial 2-1-1 to learn where to report in your area.

You may be asked for specific information such as; the child's name and location, the suspected abuser's name and relationship to the child, a description of what you have seen or heard regarding the abuse, and the names of any other people having knowledge of the abuse. The names of abuse reporters are not given out to families reported for child abuse or neglect. Experts will investigate the report, and if necessary, services will be offered to the family. For more information on reporting child abuse, visit

http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/childabuse_neglect/reporting.cfm

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What Do We Know About Child Abuse Prevention?

Research shows that the best way to prevent child abuse is to educate, to inform, to support and to work with parents to help them build strong, healthy families. This goal is at the heart of the new ICTF Multi-Year Grant program. The ICTF has funded six Multi-Year Grants for the inaugural grant cycle, 2005-2008. The first Multi-Year grantees are:

- **Panhandle Health District** in Coeur d'Alene runs the *High Risk Infant Toddler Program*. Experienced public health nurses visit families with children from newborn to 3 years of age in their own homes. These nurses individualize each visit to meet the needs of that family to be able to provide a safe, healthy and loving environment for their children. Families are also provided with additional referrals and follow up support. As Program Director Theresa Hylsky, RN, states, "these parents have their personal public health nurse to assist them in raising their infants and toddlers."
- **Young Children and Family Programs of the Palouse** in Moscow run the *High Risk Parent Education Project*. Della Bayly, a professional experienced parent educator visits with families in their homes to support them in being the best parents they can be. YCFP serves families with kids up to 13 years of age, knowing that the challenges of parenting continue even after the toddler years. Della believes that all parents need additional support at various times along the way, but especially families facing many challenges.
- **Families Together for People with Disabilities** in Moscow offers the *Native American Parent Education Project*. This project will be developing and implementing a parent education program for Nez Perce parents who have a young child with a disability or behavior disorder. Parents will learn specific behavior management techniques for parenting the challenging child. Nez Perce stories and cultural concepts are integrated throughout the training.
- **Shepherd's Home, Inc.** in McCall offers *Parenting Partners ~ building stronger families with respite, education and support*. Parenting Partners is a three part approach to supporting and educating families. Respite care is available for children when the need arises, parents learn about additional effective parenting skills, and support is offered to parents in rural areas through parenting support groups, newsletters and resource libraries.
- **Open Arms Baby Boutique** in Nampa is an incentive and education program for limited income families designed to improve the health of new babies and mothers and to provide education on parenting, fatherhood, nutrition and additional parenting topics. The Boutique serves as a community center and support system for the new mothers and their families.
- **Help, Inc. Child Abuse Prevention Center** in Idaho Falls offers *El Valor de los Padres* (The Value of Parents). This is an innovative program combining English as a Second Language for Spanish speaking parents with the content centering on parenting support and information to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Margaret Hower, Grants Manager for ICTF states "Through these programs, we will be reaching different populations and regions of Idaho to impact and support parents in the most effective ways available. Each of these programs offers the best available in education, information and support for families."

These programs will be funded for three years, based upon successful performance each year. ICTF works in partnership with these grantees to assist them in reaching their program goals and to ensure the continuation of their programs when this three year grant is completed.

Jan. 2, 2006 — Information available on ICTF website on Board Award for child abuse prevention.

Jan. 2, 2006 — Mini Grant applications for FY 2006-2007 on ICTF website.

Jan. 31, 2006 — Deadline for applications for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness funding.

Mar. 15, 2006 — Board Award nominations and grant applications due in ICTF office.

April 6-7, 2006 — 7th Annual *Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect* Conference at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise.

Please Help Prevent Child Abuse

____ Yes, I want to help prevent and respond to child abuse! Enclosed is my donation of

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 ____ Other _____

____ Please send me more information on the Idaho Children's Trust Fund



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____

Idaho Children's Trust Fund • PO Box 2015 • Boise, ID 83701-2015

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www.idahochildrenstrustfund.idaho.gov • hausnern@idhw.state.id.us

Child abuse CAN be prevented. Just fill in the voluntary donation line to the Idaho Children's Trust Fund on your Idaho State Income Tax form. Your tax deductible contribution stays in Idaho to keep Idaho children safe from abuse and neglect. Thank you.

First Annual ICTF Board Award for Child Abuse Prevention!

The members of the ICTF Board voted last summer to award \$5,000 to an organization, agency or individual that is working to prevent child abuse in Idaho in an innovative, creative manner. According to Executive Director Nancy Hausner, "This annual award should enable the recipient to continue to provide the services that are helping to keep children safe from abuse. We're very excited to begin this new way of recognizing and honoring those folks who are dedicated to the prevention of child abuse."

The Board Award will replace the Super Hero Award given for the past four years to honor youth mentors in Idaho. In choosing to honor child abuse prevention strategies, Board Chair Elect Monte MacConnell stated, "We are

staying true to our mission of preventing child abuse before it ever occurs, and that results in healthy kids, healthy families and healthy communities."

Nominations will be accepted from throughout Idaho and the ICTF Board will choose the recipient of this \$5,000 award. The details of the award, including criteria for nominations, will be available on the ICTF website on January 2, 2006. The closing date for nominations is March 15, and the winner will be announced at the Award Luncheon during the *7th Annual Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference* on April 7.

Grant Applications Available January 2, 2006

Mini Grant applications for the 2006 – 2007 grant cycle will be available on the ICTF website on January 2. Twelve month Mini Grants of up to \$2,500 annually will be awarded to support a variety of community-based projects aimed at preventing child abuse or neglect. Grant applications are due in the ICTF office by March 15, 2006. For more information, please go to www.idahochildrenstrustfund.idaho.gov or call 208-386-9317 or email hausnern@idhw.state.id.us.

SAVE THE DATE!

The ICTF's annual *Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference* is scheduled for April 6 & 7, 2006 at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise. Our nationally recognized keynote speakers will be Stephen Bavolek, PhD, the creator of the Nurturing Parenting Programs; and Cory Jewell Jensen, MA, a practicing sex offender treatment specialist and an expert in child sexual abuse prevention.

Workshop topics this year will include *Nurturing Fathers, Nurse-Family Partnership, Working with Substance Abusing Parents, Supervised Visitation and Exchange Centers* and many more. Registration is only \$75 for both days and includes lunch and CEU's. Information and details will be available on our website in January 2006.

Funding Available for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness

The Idaho Children's Trust Fund will provide specific funding to be used to promote greater public awareness of the need for preventing child abuse and neglect. Each of Idaho's seven Health and Welfare regions will be awarded \$2,500 annually to be used for awareness materials, campaigns and activities during the month of April, which is nationally designated as "*Child Abuse Prevention Month*."

Coalitions of interested parties will need to work together to decide on one lead organization, agency or individual to take the leadership role and act as the fiscal agent to represent the entire region. If you are interested in participating in your region's campaign, please e-mail hausnarn@idhw.state.id.us or call the ICTF office at 208-386-9317 for contact information in each region.

Applications for the funding are due in the ICTF office by January 31, 2006. More information is available on the ICTF website (www.idahochildrenstrustfund.idaho.gov).

Farewell to Board Members

In the past year the ICTF said farewell to three dedicated board members who have selflessly given of their time and energy in order to prevent child abuse and neglect in Idaho. Jim Rehder of Cottonwood, representing Region II, recently resigned his position due to time constraints since being elected to the Idaho County Commission. Al Sanchez of Nampa, the Region III representative, chose not to seek re-appointment after his second three-year term, and Ed Van Dusen, who represented the Department of Health & Welfare retired from the department after over 30 years of service to the state of Idaho. We deeply appreciate their service and while they will be missed, we are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful individuals.

The ICTF is pleased to announce the addition of new board members Mickey Harmer from the Department of Health & Welfare, and pending appointment by the governor, Robin Sanchez of Nampa. Both individuals have long histories of working in child welfare and we welcome their expertise to our organization.

www.idahochildrenstrustfund.idaho.gov

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